

PATENT

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**Claims:**

1. Apparatus for facilitating the connection of tubulars using a top drive, the apparatus comprising a motor for rotating a tool for drivingly engaging a tubular to rotate one tubular with respect to another to connect said tubulars and suspension unit for connecting said motor to said top drive.
2. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said motor is hydraulically operable.
3. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said suspension unit can in use, move said motor relative to the axis of said top drive to facilitate aligning said tubulars.
4. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said suspension unit is provided with at least one piston and cylinder in order to raise and lower said motor.
5. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said at least one piston and cylinder can be pneumatically actuated to compensate for the weight of said tubular.
6. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said suspension unit comprises spherical bearings to allow movement of said motor in two planes.
7. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said suspension unit comprises adjustable pistons and cylinders to position said motor.
8. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, comprising a mud pipe for delivering mud to said tubular.
9. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said mud pipe is provided with a ball joint at both ends thereof.

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10. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, when supported by a top drive.
11. A method of connecting first and second tubulars for use in lining a borehole, the method comprising:
  - coupling said first tubular to a top drive using a suspension unit, wherein the tubular engages the rotor of a motor supported by the suspension unit;
  - engaging a lower end of said first tubular with an upper end of said second tubular;
  - rotating said first tubular using the motor so as to screw the tubulars together; and
  - tightening the connection between the tubulars by rotating the first tubular using the top drive.
12. A method according to claim 11, the method comprising adjusting the suspension unit prior to tightening the connection using the top drive so as to bring the first tubular into alignment with the top drive.